

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, and for the acknowledgment of Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement by return of the Form PTO-1449. Applicants note that the Examiner has not indicated that the drawings have been approved by the Official Draftsperson on a Form PTO-948. The Examiner is thus requested to indicate that Applicants' drawings are acceptable in the next Official Action.

Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 1 and 2 will have been amended, and newly presented claims 7 and 8 will have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-8 are currently pending. Claims 4-6 remain withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and allowance of claims 1-3, 7, and 8 in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over FUKUSHIMA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,999,142) in view of WATANABE (U.S. Patent No. 4,962,983).

Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 on this ground, nevertheless, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to clearly

obviate the above noted ground of rejection in order to expedite prosecution of the present application. In this regard, Applicants note that FUKUSHIMA et al. and WATANABE fail to teach or suggest the subject matter claimed in amended claim 1. In particular, claim 1, as amended, sets forth a manufacturing method for a complex lens wherein, inter alia, “said molding dies include a pair of single-piece mirror surface cores that form a plurality of lens surfaces of said complex lens at an incident side and a plurality of lens surfaces at an exit side, respectively, and wherein boundaries of each of mirror surface portions of said mirror surface cores are formed as peaks”. As described in Applicants’ specification, the stacked lens portions molded as a single piece element provide several advantages, including “reducing positional error among the lens portions”. See particularly page 3, lines 9-14. Also as described in Applicants’ specification, the mirror surface core having concave sectional shapes with peaks therebetween provide numerous advantages, including providing the ability to be sharply processed by a cutting tool, reducing positional error among the lens portions, and avoiding upsizing of the lens surfaces. Additionally, these mirror surface portions with peaks therebetween of the instant invention provide a complex lens without margins between the lenses. See particularly page 5, lines 5-10 and page 9, lines 10-22.

However, the FUKUSHIMA et al. method employs a mold in which each pair of mirror surface cores 6, 7 is spaced from each other pair of mirror surface cores to form a lens holding frame 3 in which the lenses 16 are spaced from each other. As shown particularly

in figures 1, 4 and 5, the area between each of the mirror surfaces of the mirror surface cores is defined by a substantially flat surface space. Accordingly, such mirror surface cores form lenses with a substantially flat surface space therebetween, as clearly shown in figure 4. Therefore, FUKUSHIMA et al. does not disclose a mold having peaks between mirror surface portions. Additionally, the mold of the FUKUSHIMA et al. patent does not produce a complex lens without margins between the lenses. The FUKUSHIMA et al. method does not include a complex lens manufacturing method wherein, inter alia, “said molding dies include a pair of single-piece mirror surface cores that form a plurality of lens surfaces of said complex lens at an incident side and a plurality of lens surfaces at an exit side, respectively, and wherein boundaries of each of mirror surface portions of said mirror surface cores are formed as peaks”, as set forth in amended claim 1. The WATANABE patent is directed to a laser optical apparatus including two distinct lenses formed separately from each other and spaced from each other in use. WATANABE fails to teach or suggest a lens forming method wherein, inter alia, “said molding dies include a pair of single-piece mirror surface cores that form a plurality of lens surfaces of said complex lens at an incident side and a plurality of lens surfaces at an exit side, respectively, and wherein boundaries of each of mirror surface portions of said mirror surface cores are formed as peaks”. Therefore, the WATANABE patent fails to cure the deficiencies of the FUKUSHIMA et al. method, and even assuming, arguendo, that the teachings of FUKUSHIMA et al. and WATANABE have

been properly combined, Applicants' claimed method of manufacturing a complex lens would not have resulted from the combined teachings thereof.

Further, there is nothing in the cited prior art that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to make the modification suggested by the Examiner in the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over FUKUSHIMA et al. in view of WATANABE. Thus, the only reason to combine the teachings of FUKUSHIMA et al. and WATANABE results from a review of Applicants' disclosure and the application of impermissible hindsight. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over FUKUSHIMA et al. in view of WATANABE is improper for all the above reasons and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that dependent claims 2 and 3, which are at least patentable due to their dependency from claim 1 for the reasons noted above, recite additional features of the invention and are also separately patentable over the prior art of record based on the additionally recited features.

Applicants submit that none of the references of record, considered alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention as recited in newly submitted claims 7 and 8.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all the rejections, and an early indication of the allowance of claims 1-3, 7, and 8.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present amendment is proper and that none of the references of record, considered alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention as recited in claims 1-3, 7, and 8. The applied references of record have been discussed and distinguished, while significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Accordingly, consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present amendment and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

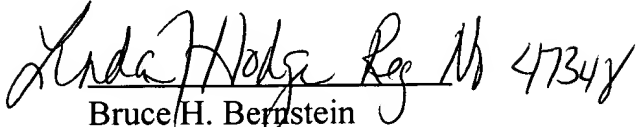
Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Applicants note that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance, and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims.

P21351.A03

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
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